

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAPE T 00308 161805Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00
INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10 L-03
NSAE-00 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 HA-05 /081 W
-----047538 161830Z /53

O R 160706Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6789
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

UNCLAS CAPE TOWN 308

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PDEV, WA, SF
SUBJ: NAMIAIA - VORSTER'S INTERVIEW WITH LONDON TIMES

1. ACCORDING TO AFTERNOON PRESS REPORTS FEB 16, PRIME
MINISTER VORSTER, IN HIS FIRST SUBSTANTIVE STATEMENT ON
NAMIBIA SINCE THE PROXIMITY TALKS, TOLD LONDON'S "THE TIMES"
IN AN INTERVIEW THAT HE IS STILL COMMITTED TO GRANTING SWA
INDEPENDENCE BEFORE THE END OF 1978. VORSTER REPORTEDLY
SAID THAT SOUTH AFRICA COULD ACCEPT WHATEVER WAS DECIDED
BY THE PEOPLE OF SWA, AND THE PEOPLE HAD DECIDED ON A
ONE MAN, ONE VOTE ELECTION BEFORE THE END OF THIS YEAR.
HE WAS FURTHER QUOTED AS SAYING THAT SOUTH AFRICA HAD
FULFILLED ITS COMMITMENTS AS THE MANDATORY POWER, BUT
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THAT THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY HAD DECIDED TO
HAND SWA OVER TO A COMMUNIST ORGANIZATION, SWAPO. HE
REPORTEDLY ADDED THAT SOUTH AFRICA WAS NOT WILLING TO
HAND THE TERRITORY OVER TO A "COMMUNIST ADVENTURER" OR
TO A COMMUNIST-ORIENTED ORGANIZATION (SWAPO), WHICH WAS NOT
FORMED IN SOUTH WEST AFRICA BUT WAS "CONCEIVED IN SIN" BY
FOUR WHITE COMMUNISTS IN CAPE TOWN.

2. MEANWHILE, OPPOSITION LEADER COLIN EGLIN IN PARLIAMENT
ON FEB 16, SAID THE PEOPLE OF SOUTH AFRICA HAD A RIGHT TO
KNOW AND WANTED TO KNOW THE CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING THE
SUDDEN RETURN FROM NEW YORK OF THE FOREIGN MINISTER.
EGLIN CALLED ON THE GOVT TO TELL THE PEOPLE WHETHER IT
WOULD TAKE THE INITIATIVE IN RESUMING INTERNATIONAL
NEGOTIATIONS OR WHETHER THE NEXT MOVE WAS UP TO THE WEST.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INDEPENDENCE, PRESS CONFERENCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978CAPET00308
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780072-0106
Format: TEL
From: CAPE TOWN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780249/aaaaboxj.tel
Line Count: 71
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: e734dbd5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 feb 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3577093
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NAMIAIA - VORSTER'S INTERVIEW WITH LONDON TIMES
TAGS: PDEV, SOPN, WA, SF, (VORSTER, BALHAZAR JOHANNES)
To: STATE USUN NEW YORK
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/e734dbd5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014